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February 16, 2006

Kevin J Martin, Chairman, FCC

445 12th St SW

Washington, DC 20554

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FCC - MAILROOM

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Subject: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

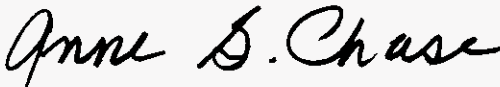
Dear Chairman Martin,

As someone who is concerned about increased taxes and telephone fees, we oppose your plan to change the way monies are collected for the Universal Service Fund.

Your proposal to change the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection methodology from a "pay-for-what-you-use" system to a "monthly flat-fee" would result in forced phone bill hikes for us and for millions of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S. Shifting the funding burden of the USF away from high volume users -- like big businesses -- and placing the weight on low-volume users -- students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers-- is UNFAIR. We urge you to rethink your flat-fee plan. It is a de-facto tax increase of as much as \$707 million for 43 million low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S.

We look forward to a reversal of your position on this matter.

Sincerely,



N Bruce & Anne S Chase

2006-03-01 rec'd
JBL/JOE